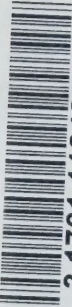


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ONTARIO WOMEN'S DIRECTORATE

1998-1999 Business Plan



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MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



**Hon. Dianne
Cunningham**

As Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, I am pleased to present the 1998-99 business plan for the Ontario Women's Directorate (OWD) which highlights our plans for the coming year.

Our government understands people's concern about safety - in their homes, in the workplaces, in their communities. We remain committed to ensuring safe communities for all.

Since releasing the *Prevention of Violence Against Women: Agenda for Action* in July 1997, our government has made significant progress in implementing the framework. The strategy involves coordinating the initiatives of several ministries as we continue to develop a cohesive approach to dealing with these important issues. In 1998-99, the Directorate will continue to implement and monitor initiatives outlined in the *Agenda for Action*. Some of this work will include undertaking new projects.

We are also committed to promoting women's economic independence. The OWD is developing a strategy to promote women's participation in business and the labour force. The strategy will encompass the roles of government and the broader community in increasing the economic independence of women in Ontario.

Our government recognizes its role in promoting safe communities and improving economic opportunities for women. As Minister, I am committed to continuing to consult with stakeholders at the community level and across all levels of government across Canada to ensure that effective and efficient programs and services are developed and maintained. We all have a role to play to create a climate that rejects violence and encourages economic prosperity - I urge everyone to do their part.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dianne Cunningham".

The Honourable Dianne Cunningham
Minister Responsible for Women's Issues

MINISTRY VISION

OWD provides the focus within the Ontario government for action on issues of concern to women; in particular social, justice and economic issues.

The vision of the OWD is:

- ☐ to ensure safe communities for all;
- ☐ to promote women's economic independence.

The OWD acts as a coordinator and key policy advisor on issues of concern to women, consistent with the need to promote women's economic independence and ensure safe communities for all.

Through private and public sector partnerships, the OWD assists the government in achieving its commitment to economic, legal and social equality.



ANNUAL REPORT ON KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND COMMITMENTS

1997-98 Achievements

Last year was significant for the government's violence prevention initiatives with the introduction of the *Prevention of Violence Against Women: Agenda for Action* in July. This strategic approach provides a framework for coordinating and tailoring services to specific local needs, whether those services are offered through government, community or the private sector. In the *Agenda for Action*, the government reaffirms that domestic and sexual violence are crimes, and that abusers will be held accountable. Everyone has a role to play in addressing this issue.

In addition to the government's existing commitment of approximately \$100 million annually, the 1997 provincial Budget included an allocation of \$27 million, over four years, to violence prevention initiatives. In 1997-98, \$5.5 million was allocated to implement the *Agenda for Action*.

As a part of the *Agenda for Action*, 24 initiatives were launched, including:

- ☐ providing training for 100 crown attorneys on violence against women issues, enhancing emergency legal aid funding for victims of domestic abuse and for cultural interpreter services;
- ☐ reducing violence against women by supporting male batterer programs to eliminate a backlog in cases;
- ☐ establishing six new domestic violence courts;
- ☐ assessing the needs and barriers faced by women with disabilities in shelters, rape crisis centres and sexual assault treatment centres;
- ☐ ensuring that children who witness domestic violence receive appropriate support through their schools by providing funding for 47 new school-based services projects.

Partnerships that draw on resources from all sectors are key to improving the social and economic environment for women in Ontario.

The Directorate acted as a catalyst by initiating cross-sectoral partnerships in communities across the province to maximize client service and develop new solutions to issues faced by women.

To promote the development of cross-sectoral partnerships, the OWD provided \$660,000 in Priority Project Funding to over 50 organizations and groups across the province for projects to prevent violence against women, to promote women's economic independence and to help women through the transition from crisis to economic independence. These grants represented the development of more than 180 partnerships in the broader public, voluntary and private sectors in developing proposals for new, innovative, solution-based projects. For example, Women in Crisis Algoma has brought together eight community partners including the Sault Ste. Marie Crisis Response Committee to provide police training on woman assault, to hold a criminal justice system forum and

to establish a coordinating forum on family violence.

As a way of fulfilling our 1997 commitment to heighten public awareness of the issues of violence against women and their children, the OWD generated \$1 million in air time (radio and television) with a government contribution of \$45,000. Products completed in 1997 include:

- *Peace Breaks* - a series of nine, three minute anti-violence features targeting youth aged eight to 12, produced in partnership with NextMedia and TVOntario;
- *You Oughta Know: Teens Talk About Dating and Abuse* - a half-hour documentary focusing on abuse in teen relationships produced in partnership with Woodlawn Communications and YTV Television.

The Directorate has placed an emphasis on the need for accountability in its programs. A review of the Women's Centres Program was conducted and new criteria, including an open process with increased accountability, have been introduced. The new program *Women Centres: Investing in Women's Futures* provided \$45,000 to each of 19 centres across Ontario.

The Directorate also plays an important role in providing access to information. The Directorate's website (<http://www.gov.on.ca/owd>), launched in May 1997, is reporting an average of 200 hits per day. In addition, the OWD has developed and distributed an overview publication outlining government and related programs and services for women entitled *Opening Doors*.

1998-99 Commitments

In 1998-99, the OWD will continue with its two core businesses: supporting job creation through the promotion of economic independence for women and the prevention of violence against women and their children.

In pursuing these areas, the Directorate will continue to work on two fronts: providing advice and support to ministries within government, and initiating cross-sectoral partnerships for the development of innovative solutions.

This year, the OWD is developing a strategy to promote women's participation in business and the labour force. This initiative will provide access to information and opportunities for women in education, employment and entrepreneurship, recognize and promote women's successes in business and employment, and facilitate the development of models of excellence and replication of innovative best practices in economic initiatives for women.

The OWD will also continue with last year's two year commitment to implement and evaluate the initiatives outlined in the *Agenda for Action*. This year, as new projects and initiatives are undertaken, a further \$7 million will be allocated through the *Agenda for Action*, in addition to the approximately \$100 million annual allocation for violence prevention initiatives.

CORE BUSINESSES

Community Safety

The OWD works to promote community safety; specifically, prevention of violence against women. Working in partnership with line ministries, the OWD plays a key role in developing policies and programs that address violence against women. The Directorate has a government-wide role in coordinating violence prevention initiatives and implementing the *Agenda for Action* strategic framework. It also works closely with community partners in the prevention of violence against women and their children through public education and community grants.

Economic Independence for Women

The OWD also endeavours to improve women's contributions to the economy by assisting business, communities and individuals to recognize that women's successes in business and employment benefit the economy as a whole. The Directorate acts as a catalyst to encourage cooperation and partnerships to facilitate the use and sharing of innovative best practices and to develop collaborative plans for models of excellence with other ministries. The OWD uses its website to link stakeholders to resources and information on opportunities for women in education, employment and entrepreneurship.

KEY STRATEGIES

The OWD acts as a coordinator and key policy advisor across government on issues of concern to women: in particular social, justice and economic issues. Through its policy role, the OWD promotes the development of effective and efficient government policies and programs as they relate to women.

Through partnerships with ministries and the community, the OWD promotes community safety specifically as it relates to the prevention of violence against women.

The OWD has developed a government wide strategy for the prevention of violence against women called the *Agenda for Action*. This framework incorporates program effectiveness and best practice models in the provision of immediate safety and support, justice services, and the prevention of violence. The strategy encompasses the roles of government and the broader community and promotes improved coordination among ministries and community-based services to address the many facets of violence against women. The OWD will continue to implement and monitor the initiatives contained in the *Agenda for Action*.

The OWD is developing a strategy to promote women's participation in business and the labour force. This initiative will provide access to information on opportunities for women in education, employment and entrepreneurship, promote women's successes in business and employment, help develop models of excellence and share innovative best practices. The strategy will encompass the roles of government and our communities in increasing the economic independence of women in Ontario.

The OWD will continue to identify best practices and will share them through partnerships. We will continue to promote the use of collective resources and expertise by working with the private and voluntary sectors to build on successful projects and current research.

KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURES

CORE BUSINESS: Community Safety			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Reduced violence experienced by women and their children.	Increased effectiveness of prevention programs and initiatives.	Reduce the incidence of violence experienced by women and their children.	Continue with year two implementation of programs and services outlined in the <i>Agenda for Action</i> .
		Establish baseline to develop program performance indicators and tracking mechanisms.	Fulfill two year commitment to evaluate government funded anti-violence programs.

CORE BUSINESS: Economic Independence for Women			
Goals/Outcomes	Measures	Targets/Standards	98-99 Commitments
Increased economic independence for women	Number of women with increased access to work and economic opportunities	Following completion of the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Women Entrepreneurship Project, measure women's recent work and economic opportunities.	Produce and distribute Women's Entrepreneurship publication to encourage women to pursue entrepreneurship as a route to becoming economically independent.
	Increased awareness of potential for women in science/technology careers; and other higher income fields.	Increase number of institutions involved/aware.	Distribute products to 11 Ontario universities, 700 high schools, 50 community organizations and 32 women's centres to encourage women to pursue careers in science/technology and other higher income fields.
		Measure client satisfaction of women accessing OWD information on economic independence.	Ongoing measurement of client satisfaction. Revision of web site based on comments received from clients.

1997-98 MINISTRY SPENDING BY CORE BUSINESS - INTERIM ACTUALS*

Ontario Women's Directorate

Operating \$ 18.5 million
 35 staff

Community Safety

Operating \$ 15 million
 12 staff

Women's Economic Independence

Operating \$ 2 million
 13 staff

Violence Prevention Policy
Violence Against Women Prevention Initiatives
Priority Project Funding

Economic Policy
Women's Centres Program
Economic Independence Initiatives

Internal Administration

Operating \$ 1.5 million
 10 staff

Office of the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
ADM's Office
Administrative Services Unit

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents

*PSAAB Based

1998-99 MINISTRY APPROVED ALLOCATIONS BY CORE BUSINESS - PLAN*

Ontario Women's Directorate

Operating	\$ 21 million 42 staff
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Community Safety

Operating	\$ 18 million 15 staff
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Women's Economic Independence

Operating	\$ 2 million 15 staff
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Violence Prevention Policy
Violence Against Women Prevention Initiatives
Priority Project Funding

Economic Policy
Women's Centres Program
Economic Independence Initiatives

Internal Administration

Operating	\$ 1 million 12 staff
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Office of the Minister Responsible for Women's Issues
ADM's Office
Administrative Services Unit

Note: Staff numbers are shown as full-time equivalents.

*PSAAB based

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's business plan are welcomed.

Visit us on the Internet at <http://www.gov.on.ca/owd> or call Daniel Atlin, Communications Advisor at (416) 326-1625 or Karen Cornece, Information Officer at (416) 314-0356 for further information.

Community Safety

Michele Sanborn, Acting Manager, Violence Prevention Unit
(416) 314-0336

Women's Economic Independence

Judy Wolfe, Acting Manager, Partnerships Unit
(416) 314-0312

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880 Bay Street, Toronto M7A 1N8
Telephone: (416) 326-5300

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In Ottawa, call (613) 238-3630 or, toll-free 1-800-268-8758

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ISBN 0-7778-7534-9

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